

# Grapevine

Rotary Club of Naples, NY

Lunch Meeting, April 24, 2017

"Sunshine on our shoulders made us happy", today, as we gathered for our last meeting of April. We had a fine Spring day, and an excellent turnout of members! Twenty-nine of us, plus our guest, filled the dining room! President Bo called the meeting to order, as we stood to join him in saying The Pledge. Jack led us in an appropriate song for the day, America, The Beautiful, and our voices were enhanced by the arrival of John Brahm, whose voice added much to the melodious tones that filled the room! Jamie provided us with a beautiful Blessing, as he thanked God for friends and fellowship. He ended by saying that a smile appears on God's face when we serve others. Thank you, Jamie, for your words of wisdom!

Before starting today's program, there were a few announcements. Skip said that the Spring Dinner will be May 8<sup>th</sup>, which is our Evening Meeting. It is also a Spouse Night, and Skip said that there seems to be a nice number of people who are planning to attend. The Spring Dinner always proves to be a most enjoyable event, and to add to its splendor, Jamie told us that the Robert Allen Awards will be given that evening as well! John F. informed us that the Voce Canto Chorale will take place the next evening, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity. May seems to be shaping up to be an eventful month!



Our Program Planner, Jack, introduced today's special guest, Deborah DeNome. Deb is the owner of Shimmering Light Farm and Renewal Center, which is not-for-profit, and serves to educate, and provide a place of retreat. Deb told us that community supported agriculture is becoming popular in the U.S., and SLFARC, which is entering its 21<sup>st</sup> season, is helping people to "learn regenerative ways of life", by giving them a "greater connection with the earth". There are currently over 500 households involved, and those people are learning sustainable ways to grow food. The Farm, which is located at the top of Hicks Road, has a 3-year grant-funded project that is engaging teens in helping to restore water. The teens, who participate when they're off from school, are "learning to be (powerful) change agents in the world", claims Deb. SLF also has an "Herb Circle", that teaches horticultural therapy, which is very beneficial in teaching health and vitality. In addition, therapeutic horticulture provides support, acceptance, and a sense of purpose. Deb said that with health improved, success and self-confidence is generated. Deb also spoke about "Forest Therapy", of which she is involved, and that form of therapy has healing effects as well. This was an excellent presentation, and we appreciate that Deb took time from her busy schedule to come speak to us!

We must have been "a pretty good group" this past week, as there weren't too many fines! Alex, Blanche, Laurie, and Joyce had missed meetings. Bo and Pat had been on a weekend trip to visit their kids. "Best of all", Jamie had fallen asleep on Bessie! We were practically unanimous in filling the basket with Happy Bills for today's program! Al thanked Bill C. for his picture. Warren appreciated that Al was the "oldest" Mason at 102! John B. had his picture in The Daily Messenger.

The Kitty was up to \$468 today, and Karen's ticket, #013, was picked. By gum, didn't she draw the Ace of Hearts, this day, as Bo yelled out, "There it is!!" Congratulations, Karen!!

John M. had our Win-Win for us. The early settlers in Naples originally had a land grant for...Honeoye! In conclusion, Bill C. had a "Rotary Moment" for us. Last Friday evening, he and his wife, Kit, were at Roots celebrating their anniversary. When they came to pay their bill, they thought perhaps the restaurant had forgotten to charge them for their drinks. Come to find out, it was an anniversary treat from Jack and Sharon! Enjoy this lovely Spring weather, everyone, and we'll see you in May!